

# The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

## *A Resolution Supporting Oklahoma Legislation to Allow Tribes to Certify Teachers at Tribally-Operated Schools*

### Resolution No. 22-03

**WHEREAS,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing approximately 815,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** as indigenous peoples, our Native languages and cultures remain our most important connections to ancestors, binding us together today and ensuring that we remain as distinct peoples for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS,** now is a critical period for passing our Native languages to the next generation, as only a few thousand first-language speakers remain alive to share their wisdom and understanding of our languages; and

**WHEREAS,** our Native languages are one of the most important gifts that we can give to our children, and early life is known to be the most critical period for developing language fluency; and

**WHEREAS,** Cherokee Nation's pre-school through sixth grade Cherokee Immersion School is a model program with national recognition for training fluent Cherokee speakers, while also providing excellent primary education, alongside other important language programs operated by the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** recruiting certified teachers for Immersion Schools and other language programs brings special challenges, due to the limited number of first language speakers remaining; and

**WHEREAS,** our Tribes need the flexibility to provide teacher certification for Tribally operated schools during this critical period for passing on our languages;

**WHEREAS,** Tribes possess the inherent authority, as sovereign nations, to establish standards for teaching, including teacher certification.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT,** the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes enthusiastically supports legislation in the Oklahoma State Legislature that would allow Tribes to certify their own teachers at Tribally-operated schools if they choose to operate a state-chartered school.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Tribes retain the sovereign right to certify their own teachers outside of agreed upon contracts or compacts with the state.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** the Inter-Tribal Council thanks and honors all who are working on indigenous language revitalization efforts across our reservations and throughout the United States.



Chuck Hoskin Jr.  
Principal Chief



Bill Anoatubby  
Governor



Gary Batton  
Chief



David W. Hill  
Principal Chief



Lewis Johnson  
Chief

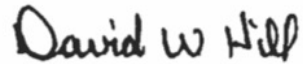
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## CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022, by a vote of 22 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.



Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation



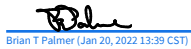
David W. Hill, Principal Chief  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation



Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation

  
Brian T Palmer (Jan 20, 2022 13:39 CST)

Lewis J. Johnson, Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma






# ITC Resolution - Teacher Certification\_01.20.22

Final Audit Report

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